

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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R 092048Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6639

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 5783

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PE, CU

SUBJ: ANDEAN PACT: PERUVIAN GENERAL COMMENTS ON CUBAN SUCCESS

1. PERUVIAN AIR FORCE GENERAL LUIS BARANDIARAN RECENTLY RETURNED FROM CUBA WHERE HE HAD BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND JULY 26 CELEBRATION. BARANDIARAN IS HEAD OF OFICINA NACIONAL DE INTEGRACION (A CABINET-LEVEL POSITION) AND CURRENTLY ALSO PRESIDENT OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ANDEAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND PRESIDENT OF COMMISSION. ON AUGUST 8 BARANDIARAN GAVE BRIEFING ON CUBA TRIP TO KEY STAFF MEMBERS IN JUNA. REFERRING TO HIMSELF JOKINGLY AS "PETIT BOURGEOIS" AT HEART, HE WANTED TO SHARE POSITIVE IMPRESSION HE GATHERED IN CUBA. JUNTA OFFICIAL, A RELIABLE SOURCE, LATER THAT DAY BRIEFED REGIONAL INTEGRATION OFFICER ON THE MEETING.

2. BARANDIARAN, WHO IS CONSIDERED MODERATE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ELEMENT IN PERUVIAN CABINET, FOUND ENVIRONMENT OF OPTIMISM AND CHEERFULNESS IN CUBA, IN CONTRAST TO SITUATION IN POLAND AND RUSSIA WHICH HAD VISITED A YEAR EARLIER. HIS COMMENTS CAN BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS.

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3. POLITICAL REPRESSION DOES EXIST, BUT SKILLFUL HANDLING OF MASS COMMUNICATION AND INVOLVEMENT OF PEOPLE IN DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS ORIENT MAJORITY OF POPULATION IN POSITIVE WAY TOWARD OBJECTIVES OF REVOLUTION. BARANDIARAN ADDED THAT COMIETES DE DEFENSA DE LA REVOLUCION MUCH MORE SKILLFULLY MANAGED THAN BLUNDERING SINAMOS IN PERU. ALSO, TELEVISED JULY 26 CELEBRATION IN CUBA MUCH MORE LIVELY AND PARTICIPATORY THAN PRESIDENT VELASCO'S SPEECH IN PERU.

4. BIGGEST VISIBLE GAINS ARE IN EDUCATION, PUBLIC HEALTH AND IN DIVERSIFICATION OF AGRICULTURE. RATION CARDS A NUISANCE AND A POLITICAL CONTROL ELEMENT (IN EFFECT, THEY COMPLETELY CONTROL MIGRATION), BUT FOOD QUANTITY AND QUALITY RELATIVELY GOOD AND MUCH BETTER THAN IN PERUVIAN BARRIADAS.

5. CUBAN MILITARY WELL TRAINED, EQUIPPED AND WITH HIGH MORALE. 600,000 MEN COULD BE PUT UNDER ARMS ON SHORT NOTICE. RUSSIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO DATE TOTALS ABOUT TWO BILLION DOLLARS. BARANDIARAN SAID HE INQUIRED IN CUBA WHETHER RUSSIA'S MILLION DOLLARS A DAY ASSISTANCE IS A LOAN OR A GRANT. HE RECEIVED NO CLEAR ANSWER.

6. NATIONALISM PREDOMINANT OVER IDEOLOGY IN CUBAN REVOLUTION. BARANDIARAN ADDED THAT MOST SIGNIFICANT ELEMENT IN MAKING CASTRO SUCCEED WAS U.S. BLOCKADE AND POLICY OF ISOLATION. A THREAT FROM ABROAD TENDS TO UNIT PEOPLE EVEN IF IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES EXIST.

7. COMMENTS: SINCE PERU AND CUBA ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS A NUMBER OF PERUVIANS MINISTERS AND HIGH LEVEL OFFICIAL (INCLUDING WIFE OF PRESIDENT VELASCO) HAVE BEEN INVITED TO HAVANA AND GIVEN SPECIAL TREATMENT. WHILE REACTION OF RETURNING VISITORS HAS BEEN MIXED, GEN. BARANDIARAN APPARENTLY HAS BEEN QUITE IMPRESSED.
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